

portion of the proposed development. My bill would also extend this requirement to other leases on which no substantial construction has already begun.

In my view, it is only reasonable to require a scientific review of this issue before construction begins. Please support H.R. 4719.

A TRIBUTE TO COLLEAGUE, PIONEER, AND DEAR FRIEND CONGRESSWOMAN JULIA CARSON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in reverence of the trailblazing life led by our colleague, Congresswoman JULIA CARSON, and to commemorate the myriad achievements attached to her name. She spent over 35 of her years—more than half of her life—as a spirited public servant, pushing her message of hope and equality in the Indiana legislature, and subsequently, the halls of Congress.

Her 1996 election from the Indianapolis district marked a litany of historic firsts: the first woman, the first African American from that area to serve in the House, and up until her passing, the only one in that delegation to fit that profile. Hers was a unique—strong, proud—voice, and the people of her district—the people of America—were all the better for it.

Known to all as “Miss Julia,” Congresswoman CARSON was raised in modest conditions and retained that modesty throughout. She was born to a single mother, a housekeeper, who instilled in her the core values that impelled her to always agitate for justice. Her convictions drove her to be a vehement critic of the Iraq invasion of 2003, and her respect for history led her to push for the conferring of a congressional gold medal to civil rights heroine Rosa Parks.

Representative CARSON, herself, was a heroine, and although her presence is infinitely missed, her aspirations for this great Nation will never leave us.

IN MEMORY OF CONGRESSWOMAN JULIA CARSON

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to mourn the loss of a friend, and celebrate the life of a dedicated public servant and exemplary American.

Congresswoman JULIA CARSON was a trailblazer and an inspiration to her colleagues here in the House of Representatives.

Before beginning her political career, Congresswoman CARSON raised two children as a single, working mother.

She first ventured into politics in the 1960's, when she went to work for then-Congressman Andrew Jacobs.

From then on she served as a State Representative, State Senator, City Trustee, and U.S. Representative.

Throughout her distinguished career, Congresswoman CARSON never forgot who she was or where she came from.

She served as a constant advocate for those in her community who had no voice.

Since first coming to Congress in 1999, I have had the extreme privilege of working with Congresswoman CARSON on a number of issues.

In particular, we worked together to champion the cause of minority and socially disadvantaged farmers—who have traditionally faced many discriminatory obstacles.

In all our work together, I was amazed by her passion and her simple dedication to doing the right thing.

Madam Speaker, Congresswoman CARSON will be deeply missed by her family, friends, constituents, and colleagues here in Congress.

But her actions have left a bold legacy of action that will continue in the lives of those she has touched.

TRIBUTE TO LATE CONGRESSWOMAN JULIA CARSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I recognize the life and passing of colleague Congresswoman JULIA CARSON of Indiana's 7th District. I have known this extraordinary person for a long time. She was a woman of principle who unabashedly championed the issues in which she believed. Her constituents and the Nation have lost a great legislator and an outstanding leader.

Congresswoman CARSON made history in 1996 by becoming the first woman and the first African-American Indianapolis has ever sent to Congress. And she came to Congress with one mission—to improve the lives of the people of her community. Even as she rose to a position of prominence in this body, she never forgot the people she was sent here to serve. She truly dedicated her career to them—and for that, earned the respect and gratitude of all Americans.

Since her days in the Indiana State Senate, Congresswoman CARSON has been committed to helping seniors live with independence and dignity as they age. Throughout her career, she has provided exceptional leadership and devoted service to America's senior citizens.

Congresswoman CARSON was also a strong proponent of civil rights movement, scaling the barriers imposed by poverty and sexism. She was a leader in advocating for voting rights, and worked diligently for the health and income needs of people experiencing homelessness and families at risk of homelessness. As a member of the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure, Congresswoman Carson worked to address the most pressing needs of her constituents and this Nation.

In the 108th Congress, Congresswoman CARSON was the sponsor of the largest Amtrak reauthorization bill, the National Defense Rail Act, which provided the rail passenger system with over \$40 billion in funds to develop high-speed rail corridors and aid in the develop-

ment of short distance corridors between large urban centers.

Madam Speaker, Indiana has lost a powerful legislator. The Nation has lost a great leader. The Congress will mourn JULIA CARSON for her enormous intellectual ability and her huge heart. I will miss an irreplaceable colleague and friend.

And yet, I know that while her loss will be deeply felt, the memory of her kindness and the recollection of her good deeds will transcend into future generations.

HONORING JANET MYERS

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Janet Myers on her retirement after decades of dedicated service to her community.

Twenty four years ago, Janet Myers was elected to the Pennel Borough Council in Bucks County Pennsylvania. While on the council, Mrs. Myers served her community on the police, finance, building and maintenance and streets committees. Her leadership and activism after more than two dozen years will be missed.

Fourteen years ago, Mrs. Myers was one of the founders of the Pennel Activities Committee, which organizes a number of community events each year. Some of the community events include annual festivals, such as the Holiday Tree Lighting Program on the first Saturday in December, the Pennel Holiday Decorating Contest, the Easter egg hunt, a senior's birthday dinner and the Halloween parade. Mrs. Myers shaped the Pennel community with wonderful festivities every year and continued to make an impact even after she left the Activities Committee.

Madam Speaker, we are proud to have Mrs. Myers as a leader in our community and with her retirement, she leaves behind legacy that many will try to follow. Her devotion, selflessness, and commitment to the residents of Pennel Borough in Bucks County, Pennsylvania is unwavering. I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Mrs. Myers for improving the lives of so many and as we, in Bucks County, wish her well for the future.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL BRINTON G. MARSDEN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Colonel Brinton G. Marsden. Colonel Brinton was born in Desoto, Missouri to Cornelius “Roy” Marsden and Hazel K. Marsden in July 1928. His father was a WWI veteran, Sergeant First Class, USMC, who fought in France. In 1939, Colonel Marsden's family moved to Los Angeles, CA and settled in Westwood.

He attended the University of Southern California (USC). During his studies there, he enrolled in the Air Force ROTC program, and

upon graduating, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant.

He was stationed abroad in Morocco at the Nour Asour Air Force Base outside of Casablanca where he traveled extensively throughout North Africa and Europe, with tours of duty that included Rhine Maine Air Force Base in Germany.

Upon returning home, Colonel Marsden applied his knowledge of the Air Force to the burgeoning aerospace industry in southern California. He focused mainly on aerospace marketing and sales. He also took part in the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo space missions. The last major project he worked on was the C-17 cargo plane for Boeing. He remained on active reserve and in command of the 9012 Air Force Reserve Squadron until his retirement in 1983. He died on December 2, 2007.

Colonel Marsden was married to Paula Walsh in November of 1956 in Sherman Oaks, California. This past year they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Colonel Marsden is survived by Paula, his loving wife; his three children, Brinton Jr., Kerri and Craig; his six grandchildren, Jason, Brinton, James, Connor, Timothy, and Jennifer. In addition he leaves behind his sister, Beverly Birner.

His funeral took place at the St. Cyrils of Jerusalem Church in Encino, California on December 6, 2007. He will be buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on January 22, 2008.

I extend my deepest sympathies to Colonel Marsden's family. The Nation is grateful for his years of distinguished service.

HONOR OUR FALLEN HEROES OF VIETNAM!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to speak about a bill that I have just introduced that recognizes and honors the service and sacrifice of many members of the United States Armed Forces who fought in Vietnam, H.R. 4720, the "In Memory Medal for Forgotten Veterans Act".

Those so recognized are veterans who have died as a result of their service in the Vietnam War but who do not meet the criteria for inclusion on The Wall of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has a program called "In Memory" which has raised money for a plaque that has been placed near The Wall. The plaque honors "those who served in the Vietnam War and later died as a result of their service". No names are on the plaque, but all names are kept in the "In Memory Book" at a kiosk near The Wall, and families can order a copy.

My bill adds to this recognition by presenting the families of these veterans with a medal, to be known as the "Jesus (Chuchi) Salgado Medal" to be issued by the Secretary of Defense. Chuchi Salgado was an outstanding individual who lived in my Congressional district, whose exposure to Agent Orange ultimately led to his death. His relatives continue to live in my district.

Because of the boundaries that have been set for the names to be placed on The Wall,

Chuchi and many, many other Vietnam veterans are not honored in this manner. Now, with new veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan, we are all taking a second look and a closer look at how veterans from past wars have been treated. While we must care for the newer veterans, we must also take this opportunity to do right by veterans of Vietnam, along with other past wars and conflicts.

I invite my colleagues to join with me in honoring these veterans. It is critical that we remember those who have fought so gallantly and sacrificed their lives for our freedom! Please join me in supporting H.R. 4720.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROBSTOWN, TEXAS

SPEECH OF

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor "The Biggest Little Town in Texas": Robstown, Texas.

Robstown has been "Celebrating a Century" this year, as the city turns 100 years old.

This centennial celebration and resolution are especially important to me because Robstown is my hometown.

I was born and raised there, attended the public schools there, and held my first job as a "printer's devil" at the local newspaper there.

Cotton and vegetable farming played an important role in the history and economy of Robstown, named after prominent local Robert Driscoll.

Robstown is a town where citizens are deeply committed to public service.

We've sent sons and daughters to shape history in local, state, and Federal offices.

County Commissioners, Sheriffs, District Attorneys, District Judges, Federal Judges, State Representatives—and this proud Member of Congress—can all trace their roots to Robstown.

Noted actress and singer, Kathryn Grant Crosby, wife of the late great crooner Bing Crosby, also hails from Robstown.

Robstown also has a great athletic tradition. Gene Upshaw, former NFL great for the Oakland Raiders, is from Robstown.

Humberto "Lefty" Barrera, bantamweight boxer on the historic 1960 Olympic team, who later earned an engineering degree at night school, also called Robstown home.

Our students also excel in the classroom, including the Robstown High School Cotton Pickers, who have achieved much in the fields of academics and athletics.

All year long, we have recognized the "Century of Celebration" which included a formal celebration on June 1.

One of our greatest traditions is the annual Cottonfest, held in October.

This year's was bigger and better than ever before.

Live music, arts and crafts, sports competitions, cook offs, contests, carnivals, and historical exhibits provide something for everyone.

We also have much to look forward to, as our town continues to grow.

Robstown enters the 21st century at the crossroads of international trade due to its

proximity to railroads, interstate highways, sea ports, and airports.

Robstown will serve as a rail hub by connecting major railway companies—Texas Mexican Railway, Kansas City Southern, and Union Pacific—with direct links to Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Houston, San Antonio, and Laredo.

Robstown is also home to the new Nueces County fairgrounds and an entertainment venue.

My hometown is the future home of an inland port, which will be the first such port in the United States, and the future home of an Army storage facility.

And no trip to Robstown would be complete without a filling yourself up with South Texas' best BBQ at Joe Cotten's.

Cotten's is an iconic restaurant where many of you have joined me for lunch South Texas style.

It is where presidential candidates, athletes, businessmen, cowboys, writers, astronauts, Generals, Admirals, other celebrities, and thousands of others have eaten over the years.

Robstown is the best of our communities in South Texas—friendly, family-oriented, and proud of their history.

It was in Robstown where my mother taught me my most important lesson: to always serve the community that gave me so many opportunities growing up.

"To whom much is given, much is expected."

Please join me in honoring Robstown on the city's 100th anniversary.

I'd like to thank Mr. CLAY and Mr. ISSA.

THE SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support H.R. 1593, the Second Chance Act of 2007. I would like to thank my dear colleague Mr. DANNY DAVIS of Illinois for sponsoring this very important legislation that addresses the prison warehousing crisis in this country. H.R. 1593, a bill of which I am an original cosponsor, addresses the very serious concerns about the compromised state of warehousing prisoners.

Earlier this year, the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security of which I am a member, held hearings to address the state of certain conditions within the United States prison system. In one of those hearings, my colleagues and I considered the merits of the Second Chance Act, and my amendment which I offered in the last Congress was included in the base bill this year.

The Second Chance Act is designed to reduce recidivism, increase public safety, and help State and local governments better address the growing population of ex-offenders returning to their communities. The bill focuses on four areas: development and support of programs that provide alternatives to incarceration, expansion of the availability of substance abuse treatment, strengthening families, and the expansion of comprehensive re-entry services.